



QUARTERLY PROJECT REPORT
[Third Quarter, 2007]

United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan
[Joint National Youth Programme]
[01-07-2007 – 30-09-2007]



National Youth Advocacy Conference Kabul August 2007

Project ID: 00054434

Duration: January 2007 – December 2008

Component (MYFF): Goal 1, 2, 4 and 5

Total Budget: \$21, 443,000

Unfunded: \$12, 443,000

Implementing Partners/Responsible parties: UNDP, UNICEF,
UN-HABITAT, UNESCO, UNV, UNFPA, UNAMA,

Donors: USAID, Dept of Labour USA,, NORAD, Government of Spain, SIDA



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan



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I. Implementation progress

Output 1: Government capacity to support and provide services to youth strengthened.

Indicator 1.1: *Development planners and policy makers (government, aid agencies, donors) aware and responsive to the situation of youth in Afghanistan*

Activity 1.1.1: Qualitative and quantitative research study (Kabul and Herat) to assess the adolescents health issues and their determinants with the help of external experts and in collaboration of partners (UNFPA)

UNFPA withdrew their commitment to be the lead agency to conduct the assessment and the Technical Coordination Committee agreed UNDP would take on this assignment. The Memorandum of Understanding and Request for Proposals were revised, and plans were developed to transfer financial contributions from agencies to UNDP.

Activity 1.1.3: Mapping and capacity assessment of existing youth institutions (youth committees, youth CSOs, student associations, etc.) in Afghanistan (at least for 7 Provinces done thoroughly) (UNDP)

This activity was delayed because the UNDP team attempted to merge the mapping and capacity assessment of youth institutions (Activity 1.1.3) with the comprehensive youth assessment to make it more sustainable. However after consultation with the partners it was agreed the two assessments should be treated as separate activities.

Activity 1.1.10: Youth legal aid services established in all regions (UNICEF)

The implementing partner was identified and a project cooperation agreement was signed to provide legal aid for children and youth. The project will be implemented in 11 model Child Protection Action Networks provinces.

Activity 1.1.11: Youth advocacy /promotion/visibility activities (UNDP)

The National Youth Advocacy Conference was held in August to provide youth the opportunity to inform the Government of their needs. 217 youth (138 male and 79 females) representing all 34 provinces in Afghanistan reviewed the JNYP including its response to the MDGs and the ANDS. A draft Declaration of 320 youth issues was presented to UN agencies and ministries. The Declaration was later summarized into 13 main youth issues and provided to the JNYP partners and the ANDS Secretariat for further planning of youth programmes and policies. Follow up youth consultations in close collaboration with the ANDS Secretariat will be held in the provinces in the next quarter.

Activity 1.1.12: Youth Empowerment advocacy and visibility activities (UN-HABITAT)

The USAID funded Youth Empowerment Programme produced a 15 minutes promotional film entitled 'Development and Changes by Civic Education'. Other promotional material included 300 T-shirts, a brochure, monthly newsletters, and 3000 newspapers. The material was distributed to the Office of the Minister of Youth Affairs and the 120 councils in 6 provinces (Balkh, Kabul, Bamyan, Farah, Nangarhar and Kandahar).

Activity 1.1.13: Needs assessment/ capacity building of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and focal points for Joint National Youth Programme ministries (UNDP)

Staff from the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs gave a presentation on the Joint National Youth Programme at the fourth annual UN Youth Assembly which is an annual gathering of outstanding individuals and young leaders from around the globe at the UN Headquarters in New York. The two staff improved in their knowledge and skills to develop a powerpoint presentation, deliver a speech, and

prepare and present key points for meetings with UN agencies, donors and the media (English and Dari). Responses to the presentation and meetings were positive and the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs staff was invited to be part of the Assembly to continue to promote youth issues from Afghanistan.

Indicator 1.2: *Strong mechanism of dialogue and lobbying between youth and Government established.*

Activity 1.2.2: Regular consultations between youth groups/civil society organizations and Government (Parliamentarians, Ministerial officials, President's representative) (UNDP)

In progress as part of Activity 1.3.1.

Indicator 1.3: *National youth strategy revised and youth-friendly policies developed through participatory processes and integrated in the ANDS*

Activity 1.3.1: Facilitating participatory youth policy discussions between Government departments, donors, international and local agencies and youth civil society organizations (UNDP)

As a follow up to the Youth Advocacy Conference and Youth Issues Declaration, a Working Group, in collaboration with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy Secretariat, developed a plan to consult with youth in the provinces and districts. The consultations will provide information from the youth to be incorporated into a minimum of eight Strategy sectors before the end of the year. (Activity 1.1.11)

Activity 1.3.3: Regular policy, strategy and advisory support to the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs through increased youth participation to refine the National Youth Strategy and develop youth friendly policies (UN-HABITAT)

A policy and strategy advisor worked with the Minister of Youth Affairs to revise the UN-HABITAT component of the National Youth Programme. Discussions were held to develop plans for youth friendly policies at all levels. This consultation is ongoing and will be completed in March 2008.

Activity 1.3.4: Development of working modalities for street based children/youth intervention (UNICEF)

The implementing partner has been identified and a project cooperation agreement has been developed. The project will provide legal aid for children and youth in 11 working modalities.

Activity 1.3.5: Development of national strategy on youth employment and youth entrepreneurship (UNDP)

Activity 1.3.7: Development of appropriate volunteerism policies, rules and legislation for Afghanistan (UNV/UNDP)

Activities 1.3.5 and 1.3.7 will be conducted in 2008 due to lack of funds in 2007. Proposals have been submitted to three funding sources.

Activity 1.3.8: Support to development of rehabilitation/ reintegration Programme for children in conflict with the law (UNICEF)

An Action Plan was developed jointly with UNODC, the Italian Justice Project and the Ministry of Justice to transfer youth from the closed juvenile rehabilitation centres to open centers.

Activity 1.3.9: Development and implementation of provincial plans of action for the implementing the national strategy for at-risk children (UNICEF)

Model Child Protection Action Networks have been monitoring child protection cases in 11 selected provinces, in close collaboration with the Police and Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission. Over 100 cases of child rights violations have been referred to provincial Child Protection Action Networks. The mapping and assessment of child protection services in respective provinces was completed and it is the first step to develop a functional and effective referral system in the provinces to support children who are in need of special protection. The training of child protection service providers has started in 9 provinces.

Activity 1.3.10: Revise the National Child and Adolescent Health Policy and Strategy and develop national standards and tools (UNFPA, UNESCO)

UNFPA has been assigned to lead the Working Group on Adolescent Health to revise the National Children and Adolescent Health Policy and Strategy in close collaboration with the Child and Adolescent Health Directorate of the Ministry of Public Health. The Group meets weekly and is working on a plan to study examples of similar policies from neighboring countries, to analyze existing data/statistics and to help identify the policy gaps. The process has been slow partly because the Child and Adolescent Health Directorate of the Ministry of Public Health has not been clear about how to go about this task. At the same time, the involvement of UN agencies and Government organizations has been weak.

Activity 1.3.11: Training manuals, operational guidelines and toolkits regarding participation of young women and men in local governance and community development, produced and distributed among various stakeholders (UN-HABITAT)

The Participatory Learning and Action Planning modules 1 to 4 (youth and local governance, youth development planning, youth fund raising, and youth project design); the training manuals, operational guidelines and toolkits have been distributed to stakeholders.

***Indicator 1.4:** Capacity of civil servants at central and provincial level enhanced to provide better services to young people*

Activity 1.4.1: Civil Service Leadership Development Training Programme for Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs officials (UNDP)

To be conducted in 2008 due to lack of funds in 2007.

Activity 1.4.2: Coaches and Advisors Programme for the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs officials (UNDP)

To be conducted in 2008 due to lack of funds in 2007.

Activity 1.4.3: Capacity building activities (participation in training and workshops) for Programme staff of Ministries (UNFPA)

Four staff from the Ministry of Public Health and the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and five Youth Center staff with representatives from UNFPA implementing partners received an orientation and introduction to Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health.

Activity 1.4.5: 42 Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs officials at central and provincial level trained in youth rights, gender, leadership, transparency, accountability, volunteerism, community development, governance, conflict-resolution, peace building, development planning, strategic planning, consultation, project design, project management, resource mobilization, partnership building, monitoring and evaluation, learning cycle, community theatre, awareness raising strategies, establishing external linkages, community education strategies, advocacy and networking. (UN-HABITAT)

40 Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs officials from central and provincial levels were trained in the following areas to assist in their programme and policy development knowledge and skills: youth rights, gender, leadership, transparency, accountability, volunteerism, community development, governance, conflict-resolution, peace building, development planning, strategic planning, consultation, project design, and fund raising.

Activity 1.4.6: Training of judicial/law enforcement officials associated with administration of juvenile justice (UNICEF)

The public sector reform exercise has been slow in the justice sector and the appointment and deployment of new officials has not been finalized in many provincial judicial institutions. Therefore the training of juvenile judges and prosecutors has been postponed until the appointment process is complete.

Activity 1.4.7: Establishment of regional social workers coaching mechanism to work with juvenile rehabilitation facilities and other youth protection issues (UNICEF)

Social work regional coaching was started in north, central, east and south regions and trainee social workers have been selected in six provinces. The initial orientation emphasized links between the social work coaching system and Child protection Action Networks referrals.

Activity 1.4.8: 22 Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs staff trained to implement the Youth Empowerment Programme including in the areas of management, policy making, and grants disbursement, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, communications, research and assessment, provincial coordination, learning cycle, advocacy and strategic planning (UN-HABITAT)

Preparations for the activity have been made.

Activity 1.4.10: English course for 20 staff of Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs (UNDP)

Ongoing individual and group English classes are being provided to 21 staff five times a week.

Indicator 1.5: Regional ties, communication and collaboration with neighboring countries and regional organizations strengthened

Activity 1.5.2: Regional exchange visits between youth Government officials of Afghanistan and neighboring countries (UNDP)

Selection criteria were developed and 13 participants were selected to participate in an International Symposium on youth policy in India (ten from Line Ministries, one from Afghanistan National Development Strategy Secretariat and two from UNDP). Five additional participants were identified by UN-HABITAT. The Symposium, to be held in October, will provide the participants with knowledge and tools to become more aware and responsive to the situation of youth in Afghanistan.

Output 2: Youth have better quality of life and improved access to livelihood opportunities, through increased awareness, education and skills development.

Indicator 2.1: Youth vocational, leadership and professional skills enhanced

Activity 2.1.1: More than 2500 youth trained as community-based school teachers (UNICEF)

More than 1000 youth were trained as community-based school teachers in targeted provinces.

Activity 2.1.2: More than 4000 young women trained to be school teachers (UNICEF)

More than 4000 young women were trained to be school teachers in targeted provinces.

Activity 2.1.3: Reintegration Programme: Vocational training, apprenticeships and basic business skills training for 10,500 at-risk youth (war affected, out-of-school, internally displaced people, street youth, girls, etc.) (UNICEF)

More than 3541 children associated with armed forces and groups and other children affected by armed conflict in nine provinces (Hirat, Farah, Ghor, Badghis, Khost, Paktika, Ghazni, Faryab, Kandahar) received vocational training (tailoring, carpentry, mechanical, plumbing etc). See Activity 2.1.12 and 2.3.2.

Activity 2.1.4: Establishment of Youth Service and Contact Centers in selected provinces (UNICEF)

In close partnership with the office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs six Youth Information and Contact Centres were established in Nangarhar, Bamyan, Kunduz, Balkh, Hirat and Kandahar provinces. Premises of the six Centres were provided by the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs. The recruitment of key positions for the Centres was completed in Nangarhar, Bamyan, Kunduz and Balkh. Youth media groups have been set up in Nangarhar. A joint field mission with UNFPA was conducted to assess the possibility of establishing and running a joint youth centre in Hirat, A similar joint mission is planned for Mazar in Balkh province. An inter-regional exchange visit to Jalalabad Centre in Nangarhar is being planned for October.

Activity 2.1.6: 132 youth in Kabul, Kandahar, Balkh, Jalalabad, Farah, Bamyan (66 boys, 66 girls) trained as facilitators of youth assessments and youth surveys (UN-HABITAT)

360 Youth in Kabul, Kandahar, Balkh, Jalalabad, Farah, Bamyan (180 boys, and 180 girls) were trained as facilitators for youth assessments and youth surveys.

Activity 2.1.7: More than 2400 youth (1200 girls and 1200 boys from 6 provinces), trained in development planning, project design, project management, resource-mobilization, partnership-building, monitoring and evaluation, community education strategies, advocacy and networking (UN-HABITAT)

More than 2580 youth (1290 girls and 1290 boys from 6 provinces) trained in development planning and project design and management, resource-mobilization, partnership-building, monitoring and evaluation, community education strategies, advocacy, and networking.

Activity 2.1.9: Over 1400 youth (700 boys and 700 girls), members of youth civil society organizations trained in managerial and professional governance skills including development planning, consultation, networking/partnership building, and good governance (UNDP)

Due to the delay of the Mapping and Capacity Assessment of the Youth Institutions (Activity 1.1.3) this activity will be transferred to 2008. Once we have the data base of the main youth institutions we will be able to identify our target groups for training and be able to monitor their application of the skills and knowledge.

Activity 2.1.11: Literacy courses for over 20,000 young women in 1468 centers all over Afghanistan (UNICEF)

Ongoing literacy courses for over 20,000 young women in 1468 centers all over Afghanistan.

Activity 2.1.12: Reintegration Programme: Life-skills training (numeracy, literacy, mine risk awareness, human rights education, mediation/conflict resolution) for 10,500 at-risk youth (war affected, out-of-school, internally displaced people, street youth, girls, etc.) (UNICEF)

3541 children associated with armed forces and groups and other children affected by armed conflict in the above mentioned nine provinces received literacy, life skills training (mine risk education, conflict resolution, child rights awareness) and health education. See Activity 2.1.3 and 2.3.2.

Indicator 2.2: *Youth literacy, life-skills, leadership, civic education and human rights awareness enhanced*

Activity 2.2.1: Youth leadership and life skills training for youth peer groups (UNFPA)

Life skills training related to Sexual and Reproductive Health for adolescents was part of the Peer Education Programme carried out at the Youth Centers in Kabul. Discussions were held with other agencies to identify possible co-training in similar topics and a plan is being developed to provide youth leadership skills training.

Activity 2.2.4: Over 1,400 youth (700 boys and 700 girls), members of youth civil society organizations trained in Leadership, and life-skills including Volunteerism and Gender Awareness (UNDP)

Due to the delay of the Mapping and Capacity Assessment of the Youth Institutions (Activity 1.1.3) this activity will be transferred to 2008. Once we have the data base of the main youth institutions we will be able to identify our target groups for training and be able to monitor their application of the skills and knowledge.

Activity 2.2.5: SEAL Youth Parliament project - youth from 34 provinces of Afghanistan selected, trained and participating in a model parliamentary consultation process (UNDP)

To be conducted in 2008 because we need to first create a data base of youth institutions and then elect representatives from all provinces for the youth parliament.

Activity 2.2.6: Development of Information, Education and Communication material for safe migration and prevention of youth trafficking/smuggling (UNICEF)

The review of the existing materials has shown it often focuses on the literate population and is only useful to the better-educated and not the majority of targeted youth. There are considerations to develop new and more relevant material.

Activity 2.2.7: More than 2400 youth (1200 girls & 1200 boys from 6 different provinces) trained in youth rights, gender, leadership, transparency, accountability, volunteerism, unity, community development, governance, conflict-resolution, peace-building, development planning, strategic planning, consultation, project design, project management, resource-mobilization, partnership-building, M&E, learning cycle, community theater, awareness raising strategies, establishing external linkages, resource mobilization, fund raising, community education strategies, advocacy, networking; gender, leadership, volunteerism, community development, governance, conflict-resolution, consultation, partnership-building, community education strategies, advocacy and networking (UN-HABITAT)

2580 youth(1290 girls and 1290 boys) (180 more than targeted) from 6 provinces, were trained in youth rights, gender, leadership, transparency, accountability, volunteerism, unity, community development, governance, conflict-resolution, resource mobilization, fund raising, community education strategies, advocacy, consultation, and partnership-building.

Indicator 2.3: *Youth reproductive health and family planning awareness*

Activity 2.3.2: *Reintegration Programme:* 10,500 at-risk youth (war affected, out-of-school, internally displaced people, street youth, girls, etc.) Trained in health education, gender and HIV/AIDS awareness (UNICEF)

3,541 children from the above mentioned nine provinces trained in health education, gender and HIV/AIDS awareness. See Activity 2.1.3 and 2.1.12.

Activity 2.3.3: Establishment 2 Youth Friendly Service Delivery Centers in Kabul and Herat (UNFPA)

Ongoing training provided to youth in the two Youth Centers in Kabul city. A joint mission with UNICEF was conducted to Herat to establish a third centre. This joint effort will reduce the duplication of UN supported interventions and increase coordination and collaboration.

The delay to establish the UNFPA Youth Centers was partly due to the postponed comprehensive Joint Youth Assessment, the findings of which were to inform the Programme and bring data to the planning and design stage. However, despite the delay – the collaboration with UNICEF is a very promising one and would not have come together if UNFPA had established Youth Centers on its' own earlier.

Activity 2.3.5: Adolescent Reproductive Health Counseling Training on Sexual Reproductive Health issues to youth and service providers (UNFPA)

Staff from the Ministry of Public Health and the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs with Youth Centre staff received an orientation to Adolescent Reproductive Health Counseling Training on Sexual Reproductive Health. Plans were developed for training on psycho-social counseling awareness to all staff of the two Youth Centers in Kabul and a one week awareness training on psycho-social health and counseling for the peer educators of the two Youth Centers.

Activity 2.3.6: Work with government to include information on Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS in high school curriculum (UNFPA)

The Ministry of Public Health and its' government partners working in the field of youth, education, HIV/AIDS, and Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health have been asked by UNFPA to establish a Working Group to work on HIV/AIDS prevention messages that will include Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health information in the national high school curriculum. UNESCO and other UN partners were invited to support this joint effort.

Activity 2.3.7: Develop and publish a monthly bulletin, cartoon series related with life skills and sexual reproductive health in national newspapers (UNFPA)

The Information, Education, and Communication materials have not been developed due to a shortage of staff. UNFPA advertised for staff to work on this activity.

Activity 2.3.8: Programme orientation and community sensitization on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health issues for the key stakeholders in the community (UNFPA)

UNFPA participated in two events to sensitize the communities on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health issues. They provided financial and human resources to the National Youth advocacy Conference (Activity 1.1.11) and peer educators from the two Centres participated in the discussions. One of the youth issues in the declaration was related to the need for youth sexual and reproductive health support.

In August UNFPA in collaboration with Ministry of Public Health and the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs organized an advocacy conference with key stakeholders at the Central Polyclinic in Kabul, where one of the Youth Centers is located. The purpose of this event was to obtain increased political support and create an enabling environment for the work on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health. In addition, the purpose was to strengthen the referral systems between health care facilities such as the Kabul hospitals, HIV/AIDS Centers, Psycho-Social Counseling Centers, schools and UNFPA Youth Information Centers.

Activity 2.3.9: Adaptation and development of Adolescent Reproductive Health Information, Education and Communication materials for the use of adolescents and youth RTIs/HIV/AIDS, Gender based violence and gender equity and equality, and substance abuse (UNFPA)

Limited materials have been developed. A plan was developed to create material on a wider scale in collaboration with partners.

Activity 2.3.10: Trainings on HIV-AIDS (UNESCO)

Planning to training up to 100 school teachers from all provinces in HIV/AIDS education in school settings and develop youth-friendly HIV/AIDS materials. The activity will take place in the fourth quarter 2007 and teachers will transfer the knowledge to school students.

Indicator 2.4: Afghan youth exposed to knowledge, experiences and networks in other countries

Activity 2.4.1: Individual youth fellowships and international and regional exchanges/exposure visits (UN-HABITAT)

The Youth Empowerment Programme developed a plan for the second visit to India in the fourth quarter as a follow up from its first visit in the first quarter.

Activity 2.4.2: Regional and international youth exchanges and participation in international events (trainings, meetings, conferences) especially in neighboring countries (UNDP)

To be conducted in 2008 due to lack of funds in 2007. We are also waiting for the data base of youth institutions and outcomes of the international youth symposium on youth policy to assist in the planning.

Output 3: Youth participation in governance and social-political processes enhanced

Indicator 3.1: Local youth committees (m/f) established in villages and urban neighborhoods

Activity 3.1.1: Peer group formation of 40-45 groups, and regular peer group activities conducted and basic Peer Educators Training in Kabul and Herat through NGOs (UNFPA)

As mentioned under activity 2.2.1, peer educators are being trained as part of the ongoing activities at the Youth Centers in Kabul. The Youth Council in Herat is yet to be established.

Activity 3.1.3: 60 youth development plans designed for 60 villages/neighborhoods (UN-HABITAT)

120 youth development plans were designed for 60 villages/neighborhoods. The Participatory Learning and Action Planning report will include the detailed report on the youth development plans. It was done on time and within budget.

Indicator 3.2: Local youth development plans designed

Activity 3.2.1: Establishment of local youth fund and youth fund-raising activities (UN-HABITAT)

120 youth development plan were designed by youth. The fund raising activities have started on time and will continue into the next quarter.

Activity 3.2.3: 60-120 youth self-initiated community service projects (UN-HABITAT)

100 self-initiated projects were developed by youth in 6 provinces. The initiatives include tailoring courses, home tuitions, handicrafts tuitions, English lessons and support to computer centers.

Indicator 3.3: *Diverse youth development initiatives undertaken at community level*

Activity 3.3.4: Mobilization of youth institutions (youth civil society organizations, youth committees, student associations, etc.) in 7 provinces and awareness-raising on engagement of youth in sub-national governance (UNDP)

This activity cannot be conducted until we have conducted the mapping and capacity assessment of the youth institutions (Activity 1.1.3) to be completed end of 2007. This activity was transferred to 2008.

Indicator 3.4: *Provincial youth Councils established*

Activity 3.4.1: Election of male and female youth delegates representing clusters of civil society organizations and/or youth committees of one district (UNDP)

Activity 3.4.3: Provision of basic assets and equipment for long-term functioning of interim provincial youth councils in 7 provinces (UNDP)

Activities 3.4.1 and 3.4.3 will be conducted in 2008 due to lack of funds in 2007.

Indicator 3.5: *Participation of youth in district/provincial development planning increased*

Activity 3.5.1: Revising operational manuals and Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development policies to increase youth participation in District Development Assemblies, addressing also female participation (UNDP)

To be conducted in 2008 due to lack of funds in 2007.

Activity 3.5.4: Support to Child Protection Action Networks and collaborative activities on child/youth protection in 10 provinces (UNICEF)

Model Child Protection Action Networks in 11 provinces have been working closely with youth groups. The Networks have completed a mapping and assessment of child protection services in respective provinces. Youth groups have been identified in this mapping exercise as potential partners for the child protection response.

UNICEF, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, is currently setting up a joint website for Child Protection Action Networks and Youth Information Counselling Centres. The website aims to provide a public forum for youth media groups and journalism students to share their work such as reports on child protection, child rights and youth activities. Ethical report training for youth media groups is being planned for November.

Indicator 3.8: *Resource allocations and decision/policy making at municipal, provincial and national level responsive to issues affecting youth*

Activity 3.8.7: Participation of youth civil society organizations, interim provincial youth councils and interim Afghanistan youth council in all National Youth Policy development working groups (see also 2.2) (UNDP)

To be conducted in 2008 due to lack of funds in 2007.

Output 4: *Mechanisms are in place to engage youth in volunteering for peace and development.*

Indicator 4.1: *Enabling environment for promoting youth volunteerism in Afghanistan created*

Indicator 4.2: *Institutional structures established to support the operation of the Afghan Youth Corps*

Indicator 4.3: *Policies, procedure and systems put into place to enable youth volunteering in Afghanistan*

Indicator 4.4: *Host organizations (ministries, NGOs, CDCs, aid agencies) prepared to receive and manage volunteers to support their development objectives*

Indicator 4.5: *Youth volunteers engaged in various development activities in Afghanistan*

Activity 4.1.1: The terms of reference for the coordinator position were revised in August to incorporate a youth-centred approach to the youth volunteer corps development. Several potential applicants are being reviewed.

The remaining activities under Output 4 were not carried out in 2007 due to a lack of funding. The activities will be conducted in 2008 depending on the availability of funds. Proposals have been submitted to a number of funding sources.

Output 5: *Effective mechanisms for stakeholders in place and coordination established to ensure delivery of Programme outputs*

The Oversight/Board meeting was held in July. The Board suggested the following:

- Report on achievements and deliverables including concrete results of exposure visits.
- Select participants, for exposure visits and training in other countries, in consultation with the ministries.
- Incorporate human rights issues in the planning of activities
- Include skills training in youth centres to assist in the preparation for job opportunities
- Collaborate with the National Skills Development Project

Two Technical Coordination Meetings were held (July and September).

FAO, ILO, UNODC and the Ministry of Agriculture have been invited to become official partners of the Joint National Youth Programme and the amendment to the Programme Document will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

Two proposals were submitted for funding. The Volunteer Youth Corp subproject was developed collaboratively with UNDP, UNV and UNICEF and the Democratic Development subproject was developed collaboratively with UNDP and UN-HABITAT. The third proposal, the MDG Achievement Fund for youth and employment, is in the initial stage of preparation and the partners are UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, FAO and UNV.

II. Project implementation challenges

UPDATED PROJECT RISKS AND ACTIONS

During last three months the following factors were identified as risks:

Insufficient leadership on the part of the government counterpart

As result of insufficient human and financial resources of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs, which is the lead government partner of the Joint National Youth Programme has not been able to fully play its role to lead and coordinate the Programme on the part of the government. Furthermore, the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth suffers capacity gaps in several areas. This has contributed to that the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs has not been able to effectively communicate with the government partners and therefore there has been a lack of understanding, coordination and support from the government towards the Joint National Youth Programme. At the provincial level the 14 provincial offices of the Deputy Ministry have actively collaborated with the Joint National Youth Programme despite facing human and financial constraints.

There are also uncertainties regarding the future of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs following the recommendation of the National Assembly that the Office of the Deputy Minister should be transformed into an Independent National Directorate of Youth Affairs and what role it will play in relation

to the Joint National Youth Programme. Furthermore the replacement of the Deputy Minister has had some implications on continuity.

In order to encourage further commitment on the part of the Government UNDP and UN agencies have held one on one meetings with six of the eight ministries to ensure they were informed about the Programme and provided them with the Programme document in Dari, Pashtu and English. During these meetings ministries gave their input to assist in the development of the three proposals for the unfunded components of the Programme. Each ministry has identified a focal point for the Technical Coordinating Committee and has committed to participate in the November Oversight Board meeting. The Programme is also planning a team building session for the focal points and will provide training in youth policy for the fourth quarter. Through on-going consultations the UN agencies have built good relationships with the main ministries and the Programme is moving ahead. At the same time, the UNDP has identified a consultant to assess the capacity of the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs and identify how the Programmed can contribute to improve the Office's leadership capabilities.

Low level of youth-specific content in the ANDS

The Afghanistan National Development Strategy Secretariat is finalizing the Strategy and it is essential that youth issues be embedded in a minimum of eight of the sectors. As mentioned in the previous report "the very existence and continuation of the Joint National Youth Programme is one measure that is currently available to address the presence of Afghan youth as a source of common interest, power, and commitment to a democratic Afghan society and state". The Joint National Youth Programme, in close collaboration with the Afghanistan National Development Strategy Secretariat and the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs plans to meet with youth from the 34 provinces including the district and village levels during the early part of the next quarter. These consultations are a follow up to the youth consultations that occurred in August in Kabul and will be covered by TV, radio and the newspaper to ensure that the voice of youth is heard and their needs incorporated into the national strategy.

UPDATED PROJECT ISSUES AND ACTIONS

Issues in the third quarter:

Joint Youth Assessment was not carried out on time:

UNFPA was assigned as the Managing Agent for the Joint Youth Assessment (Activity 1.1.1, Activity 1.1.2, Activity 1.1.7, Activity 1.1.8 and Activity 1.3.7) in January 2007, the process was delayed. UNFPA management, on July 30, decided to withdraw from the role as the Managing Agent for the Joint Youth Assessment and in September the Technical Coordination Committee agreed that UNDP would take on the responsibility. The delay of seven months has seriously affected the further development of the Programme due to the lack of analysis of youth issues which is required for the revision of the 2008 work plan and the extension of the Programme to 2010. UNDP as the lead agency has revised the Memorandum of Understanding for signature among the six assessment partners (UNDP, UNFPA, UNV, UNESCO, UNICEF, and UNDP/ASGP). Once UNFPA and other agencies transfer the funds to UNDP the Request for Proposals will be announced.

Operational issues:

Lack of office space:

To date a suitable office space for the Joint National Youth Programme has not been identified. Initially a maximum of 8 UNDP staff and twelve UN-HABITAT staff were to move to the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs premises. The UNDP security review was conducted and the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs was asked to make provisions to ensure the safety of the UN staff. However the Office of the Deputy Minister of Youth Affairs did not have the funds for some of the requirements nor the authority to make changes such as re-direction of traffic on roads leading to the premises. UNDP has revised the annual budget for 2007 and has allocated money to rent alternative office premises. UNDP country office will continue to provide the Joint National Youth Programme with two offices (project

manager and monitoring and reporting officer) until early fourth quarter when all Project Staff will move to the new premises.

Lack of human resources

The Programme has faced the challenge of recruiting staff with the required qualifications, resulting in delays in implementation of some of the Programme activities, due to lack of staff within the Programme. For example the position of project specialist was advertised four times and no suitable candidates could be identified. The Programme staff organizational chart has been revised and recruitment is being carried out accordingly. A finance/administration officer has been recruited and will start in the next quarter and the positions of National Deputy Project Manager, National Project Officer and International Project Coordinator will be advertised.

Lack of timely reporting:

The quarterly progress report was delayed as the process of compiling information from all the partner agencies is time consuming. Each individual agency first completes its own donor reporting requirements and then is required to transfer information using the UNDP reporting guidelines. To solve this problem, each UN partner has identified a focal point to be responsible for the reporting. Discussions (face to face, email, phone) will be held regularly with the UNDP monitoring and reporting officer to share the information. A Working Group meeting will be held next quarter to further discuss and agree on the most effective and efficient reporting process and product.

III. Financial status and utilization

FINANCIAL STATUS:

Table 1: Contribution Overview [1 January 2007 – 31 December 2008]

Donor Name	Contribution		Balance
	Committed	Received	
SPAIN/UNFPA	450,000	450,000	0
USAID	2,156,262	1,700,000	456,262
US GOV	750,000	750,000	0
NORAD, SIDA	900,000	900,000	0
UNICEF	4,370,000	3,670,000	700,000
UNESCO	26,000	3000	23,000
UNV	72,000	32,000	40,000
UNDP Core	677,740	677,740	0
Total	9,402,002	8,182,740	1,219,262

Financial Utilization:

Table 2: Quarterly Expenditure by Activity [1 July – 30 September]

Components	BUDGET [2007]	Q3 Expenditures	Q1 & Q2 EXPENDITURE	BALANCE	DELIVERY (%)
Component 1: Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	1,721,324	182,205	401,761	1,137,358	34%
Component 2: Youth Skills Development	1,106,253	1,049,495	853,135	-796,377	172%
Component 3: Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social -political processes	207,000	30,889	110,729	65,382	68%
Component 4: Youth Volunteer Corps	375,500	21,120	0	354,380	6%
Component 5: JP Coordination & Support	926,943	111,840	139,214	675,889	27%
Total	4,337,020	1,395,549	1,504,839	1,436,632	67%

Table 3: Quarterly Expenditure by Donor [1 July – 30 September]

Quarterly Expenditure by Donor						
DONORS	Components	Budget for 2007	Q3 Expenditures	Q1 and Q2 Expenditures	Balance	Delivery Rate
Spain	Component 1: Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	169,272	20,000	84,272	65,000	50%
	Component 2: Youth Skills Development	196,546	44,187	161,546	-9,187	82%
	Component 3: Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social -political processes	3,000	0	3,000	0	100%
	Component 4: Youth Volunteer Corps				0	
	Component 5: JP Coordination & Support	80,032		43,516	36,516	54%
	GMS %					0
Subtotal Spain		448,850	64,187	292,334	92,329	65%
USAID	Component 1: Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	213,930		91,930	122,000	43%
	Component 2: Youth Skills Development	0	7,200	186,231	-193,431	
	Component 3: Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social -political processes	150,000	21,120	69,467	59,413	46%
	Component 4: Youth Volunteer Corps	0	21,120	0	-21,120	
	Component 5: JP Coordination & Support	350,000		14,598	335,402	4%
GMS %					0	
Subtotal USAID		713,930	49,440	362,226	302,264	51%
UNICEF	Component 1: Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	1,070,000	112,245	225,559	732,196	21.08%
	Component 2: Youth Skills Development	880,000	998,108	505,358	-623,466	57.43%
	Component 3: Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social -political processes	50,000	9,769	35,262	4,969	70.52%
	Component 4: Youth Volunteer Corps	360,500		0	360,500	0.00%
	Component 5: JP Coordination & Support	50,000		25,000	25,000	50.00%

GMS %					0	
Subtotal UNICEF		2,410,500	1,120,122	791,179	499,199	32.82%
UNDP	Component 1: Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	208,122	49,960	0	158,162	24.01%
	Component 2: Youth Skills Development	27,707	0	0	27,707	0.00%
	Component 3: Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social -political processes		0	0	0	
	Component 4: Youth Volunteer Corps	0	0	0	0	
	Component 5: JP Coordination & Support	441,911	111,840	56,100	273,971	38.00%
GMS %		0		0	0	
Subtotal UNDP		677,740	161,800	56,100	459,840	32.15%
UNV	Component 1: Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	45,000		0	45,000	0%
	Component 2: Youth Skills Development	0		0	0	
	Component 3: Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social -political processes	0		0	0	
	Component 4: Youth Volunteer Corps	15,000		0	15,000	0%
	Component 5: JP Coordination & Support	0		0	0	
GMS %					0	
Subtotal UNV		60,000	0	0	60,000	0%
UNESCO	Component 1: Strengthening Government Capacity to Support Youth	15,000		0	15,000	0%
	Component 2: Youth Skills Development	2,000		0	2,000	0%
	Component 3: Youth Participation in Governance, Democracy & Social -political processes	4,000		3000	1,000	75%
	Component 4: Youth Volunteer Corps	0			0	
	Component 5: JP Coordination & Support	5,000		0	5,000	0%
GMS %				0	0	
Subtotal UNESCO		26,000	0	3000	23,000	12%
Total		4,337,020	1,395,549	1,504,839	1,436,632	35%

Annex 1: 2007 Work Plan - External